

THE CHURCH AT MOCHI.

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A letter received in London from the resident-church missionary, Rev. A. R. Stoddard, reports much dispute and trouble with the German officers, Baron von Bismarck and others, in authority at Mochi, an English missionary station in east Africa. Since the death of the local native chief, Mandara, his son, named Menka, has become hostile to them; German lives have been lost in repeated skirmishes, and there are fears of an attack on Mochi by the Germans with their Nubian soldiers. From Taveta a view is obtained of Kibo, 19,000 feet high, the loftiest summit of the Kilimanjaro, an extinct volcano, which has piled up its masses of lava, tufa and conglomerate to an altitude far surpassing its neighbor, Kilimanjaro, and has been crowned and robed with perpetual snow, shining brightly

in the deep blue sky. Below the southern slope of that immense cluster of group of volcanic mountains formations, the sides of which are shaggy with woods and intersected by torrents, is the terrace platform of Chaga, where are many native villages, looking west to Mount Meru; and near here is the Mochi missionary station. Mochi is on the route inland from the seaport of Mombasa, the headquarters of the British East African Company. After crossing the barren waterless desert of Taro, which may, probably, soon be traversed more easily by the projected railway, the fertile and beautiful Taita district is approached, and Mount Ndara, an isolated peak of striking aspect, the slopes of which are cultivated and inhabited by Wa-Taita families, driven from the plains some years ago by dread of the ferocious Maasi, becomes a conspicuous object in the view. Several other peaks and ridges in the vicinity, and the grand range of the Bura mountains beyond, to the westward, afford relief to the eye wearied by the monotony of the preceding journey. The Wa-Taita seem to be a rather timid and feeble race, but willingly accept the protection of the British company, and a missionary station was formerly established on the hill of Ndara, which it has been deemed, for the present, to leave vacant. Taveta lies four or five days' journey farther to the west, in a small tract of depressed land, covered with dense forest and thickets, a strip of luxuriant verdure, near the base of the huge snow-capped Kilimanjaro. The river Lomlomi flows through Taveta, supplying abundant moisture to the soil, and Lake Dipela, at its lower end, closed southward by the Ugogo mountains.

THE GERMAN EXHIBIT.

Herr Krupp Will Spend Half a Million for the World's Fair.

Herr Krupp, the special commissioner for Germany, says that the German department of the fair will exceed in importance and interest all former displays made by that country at international exhibitions. The educational exhibit will be especially interesting, and the museums of the empire will be well represented. A German mail-wagon will be shown and also a model post-office equipped with all the appliances for the transmission of mail. Among the railroad exhibits will be found a number of plans for railroad depots.

Germany will take a leading position in the fine arts exhibit, having done more for this branch than ever before. The various governments of the empire have given permission to remove paintings, works of sculpture, and other art objects from the public and state galleries.

Krupp's exhibit of cannon and war material will be one of the leading and attractive features. The largest cannon in the world, expressly made for Chicago, weighs 138 tons. The exposition authorities have assigned another site for Krupp's products on the border of the lake on the southern end of the grounds, where a small fort will be erected, such as is used in coast defense in Germany. The firm will spend about \$500,000 for the exhibit.

Paper Deal Quits.

"There is something that I first saw during my travels in Germany," said a gentleman who but recently returned. "I am referring to bed quilts made of paper. They are making great headway, and can be found with almost every family now. They are warm and a great deal cheaper than those that we use. It would not surprise me to hear of some one undertaking their manufacture in this country."

"An Honest Confession," Etc.

The Glasgow Herald makes the graceful acknowledgment at the head of its column of humor that "fully one-half the humorous sayings we hear come from America, and of the other half fully 50 per cent. should be accredited to that country."

"Doctor," said Mr. Bloomer to Rev. Dr. Thirley, "do you think that in the next world we shall pursue the same avocations that we do in this?"

"Some hold that opinion," replied the clergyman, "cautiously." "But why do you ask?" "It was the case, I was thinking our heaven would be in great luck."

THE PUNY TENDERFOOT.

How He Surprised the Old Texan Ranchman.

He Had Soft Hands and Played the Piano, But He Fought Indians Single-Handed, and Enjoyed It, Too.

We had stopped at a railroad station on the Pecos river, in Texas, and many of the passengers were walking up and down the long platform, says the New York Herald. Among them was a dandish young man who excited considerable ridicule from the dozen rough fellows hanging about. One of them finally said something about "chawing him up," when an old man in the gang raised his hand and said:

"That's 'nough, boys; don't go any further."

"What's to you?" demanded the other.

"A heap, I reckon! It's so much to me that I'll do a little shouting on that fellow's account if needs be."

The two men looked menacingly at each other, and for twenty seconds I expected to see them draw and fire. Then the younger one walked away, growling as he went, leaving the field to the old man.

"Would you have fought for the deed?" I asked, when the strain had been relieved.

"Sartin!" he grimly answered.

"But you don't know him."

"No, and probably never shall, but he sort o' reminds me of a little circumstance that happened seven or eight years ago. I had a ranch up on the Pecos Plains, and a dude came from New York city to visit a naylor o' mine. He was jest sich a bean stalk as this chap. He had soft hands, a woman's way of talkin', and I looked him over and made up my mind that a Texas baby three years old could give him pointers."

"Well?"

"Waal, after he'd bin out there about three months Jim and me went out one day to look up some stray mustangs. The first thing we knew we got a volley from a lot of Indians who had broke loose from the reservation. Jim was hit in the shoulder, but fortunately carried off by his horse, who was a flyer. I headed for a sink I knowed of and reached it within a matter of minutes. Then you see my caper was to stand 'em off till Jim could send help. I had Winchester and plenty of cartridges,

fragments on top of the big asphalt field which fills the whole of the lower deck, and by to-morrow morning they would disappear, sunken slowly back into the parent mass. This slow-running quality makes the cargo the most detested among the captains in the island trade, for when the ship has been listed over to port or starboard for a couple of days, while running before a strong wind, the whole cargo will quietly shift over and have to be broken up and trimmed back to its proper position to keep the ship on even keel.

Trinidad, the island from which practically all the asphalt of the world is now drawn, is a British possession in the West Indies. It was one of the little spots of terra firma against which his explorations farther westward in search of that marvellous place, the northwest passage. The island was then inhabited solely by Caribs, a wild and warlike, but with intelligent race, not unlike the North American Indians, peculiar in their language, which, like the Choctaw of our western tribe, has been mastered by few if any white men. For many years the island remained a neglected dependency of Spain, with a constantly dwindling population, mostly natives and imported negroes. In 1763 it passed into the hands of the British government and has remained an English colony since.

There are but two towns of importance upon the island, Port of Spain and San Fernando. These live mostly by their imports, the chief products of the island beyond its own necessities being asphalt and coconuts. The sugar crop is large, but at the present prices it does not pay to export it. The population of the town is mixed. English is the court language, but the majority of the people are negroes, descendants of the old slave stock, who talk a patois of mingled French, Spanish and English that is described as the 'most back-headed lingo' any heathen ever invented. The negroes are like those of the United States, beginning to feel their freedom, and on the strength of it getting the big head in the second and third generation. The resident whites designate them as 'lascy' and as a class unbearable when they have risen above the stage of picking asphalt. This is true of all but the French negroes from Martinique and the adjacent triolier provinces, who by long association have acquired the suave manner of their former owners, and are all of them fit instructors for an ordinary dancing master. Among them impoliteness is unknown.

Some of the original Caribs are still to be found among the island people, but they are rapidly disappearing, and in their places is now seen the imported coolie. The coolie trade, which was originally instituted to furnish cheap labor for the plantations, was in former times a terrible disgrace to the islands and partook of more than all the horrors of the African slave trade. Thousands of the miserable Asiatics were sacrificed in the business by the greed and inhumanity of the masters who brought them over, and, although imported under the guise of labor contract, not one in hundreds of them ever lived to return home. Stringent laws governing the traffic are now enacted, however, and what is more to the purpose, as well enforced, and many of the coolies by the time they have served their eight years' contract are well-to-do citizens, being paid for their work by the piece and saving nearly all they earn.

The great pitch lake, which is the chief wonder and attraction of the island, is situated in a low sandy stretch of the southwest coast, near Cape Corbaray. The surrounding country is low and malarial, in striking contrast to the high hills and rich woodlands of the coast further back. The lake is owned by the British government and leased by it to the Barber Asphalt company, an American firm of immense capital, which controls the trade for the forty-two years yet to run. The laborers at night, even the coolies, shrink from the heat and low fevers of the place. The lake itself is about a mile in diameter, hard at the edges, and softening toward the middle. The surface is continually changing, apparently from some subterranean action, and little oases of dry land, and even trees and shrubs, will disappear in a single night, and fresh islands or soil will be reared in other places.

The lake is in all probability merely an unusually large deposit of bitumen or soft coal that has undergone a transformation from decaying vegetable matter in contact with water, and too near the surface for the heat pressure above to harden it thoroughly. Hundreds of negroes the year round toil at the lake's edge, taking out cargo after cargo from the supply that seems never to diminish. They work under ovens of their own color, and are paid at the rate of seventy-two cents a day. The asphalt crust is broken up with picks and crowbars, and is loaded on dumpcarts, drawn by a single sun-dried mule, in when the constant boiling temperature seems to have concentrated all the native meanness of his species. The carts crunch through a long, sandy road down to the wharf at the water's edge, where the load is dumped and carried by wheelbarrows on board the lighters, which in turn are hoisted to the ships, lying a half-mile out in the shallow water. The rough lumps of pickings are hoisted on board in baskets and piled in the hold, where they sink down into a compact mass, and so on till the solid cargo is completed.—Washington Star.

Swearing Wounds on the Innocent.

Mr. Percival, who was formerly employed in the Bombay police, describes an extraordinary conspiracy which has been brought to light in that city. For a considerable time there existed in Bombay a gang of scoundrels, each of whom took it in turn to have severe wounds inflicted on his companion. They thereupon raised a great outcry, and charged some many of means with attempted murder. Many citizens of respectability were thus blackmailed or brought to ruin and disgrace, until by a fortunate accident the gang was broken up. The operation of cutting the throat of one of the victims chosen by lot was entrusted to a drunken barber; the wound proved mortal, and the injured man, being taken to the hospital before he died, confessed his crime, and gave the names of his accomplices.—London News.

Acquaintance.—You are not wearing your watch to-day. Is it broken?

Seedling.—No, but I am.—Jewellers' Review.

THE LAND OF ASPHALT.

The Island From Which Nearly All This Useful Material is Taken.

The asphalt barres from the West Indies are about the only vessels outside the coasting schooners that ever favor Washington with a visit.

Down in the hold the cargo looks like the edge of a dead lava field, black and seamed, and apparently as hard as rock; but the hardness is deceptive. Break up a bushel of the "pitch," as it is known to the trade, and pile the

OUR SAVAGE FOREFATHERS.

Even These Classic Old Hunsbaga, the Once Barbarians.

We all know the school-boy's famous mistranslation of Horace:

Delicia majorum immeritus tua.

"The delights of our ancestors were unmitigated filth." That is the impression left on the modern mind by a study of Mr. Gomme's book, "Ethnology in Folk-Lore." Mr. Gomme shows our ancestors eating their riches, knocking elderly men on the head merely because they were elderly, making torches of human fat, placing fragments of corpses over stable doors, daubing the bridegroom's feet with soot (in Scotland), and, in short, as the poet says, "Doing divers and disgusting things."

This does not at all surprise the folklorist. "They all do it," he says, in the words of the old comic song, and he is quite prepared to admit that unmitigated filth was the delight of our ancestors.

They were savages, says he, and our descendants may, and probably will, be savages again. Mankind is like the little royal child who wanted to make mud pies with the small gamins in the gutter. Some races have to a certain extent been weaned from the inclination to make mud pies. But give them a chance, say in Africa, where the eyes of their nurse, of public opinion, is not on them, and back they go to their pies, both of mud and blood. It is not difficult, in certain circumstances, to imagine a universal degradation, from which the race would very slowly climb back into the feudal period. But Mr. Gomme, and some other students, do not entirely accept this view. Were the people who daubed the bridegroom with soot and did the other divers and disgusting things, were they really of our kindred, after all? Or, if they were, did they invent these discreditable performances, or did they merely borrow the customs from some neighboring and conquered savages?

Mr. Gomme seems to be of the latter opinion. It has been proved that there was perhaps no dirty, savage tricks which did not exist in the Greek religion. A civilized people, they danced about with snakes in their hands, like the Moogis; they worshiped obscene images and kept filthy sacred pictures in their temples; they adored stones; they performed unwholesome rites with pig's flesh; their dances were often ridiculous and revolting; they told highly discreditable stories of gods who went about disguised as dogs, serpents, ants, swans and wolves. All these things the lowest savages also do, and the conclusion is that Greeks, too, had once been savages, and that the conservatism of their religion retained customs which puzzled and annoyed their common sense and piety. Nothing but Christianity made an end of the pig's flesh; their dances were often ridiculous and revolting; they told highly discreditable stories of gods who went about disguised as dogs, serpents, ants, swans and wolves. 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